

Mr. President, it is because justice for war crimes is so important that I am particularly pleased at recent news reports that NATO is now acting to capture persons in Bosnia who have been indicted for war crimes. The recent raid conducted by British troops to capture a suspected war criminal who was subsequently transported to the Hague should give hope to ordinary Bosnians that justice will be done and armed thugs will not continue to dominate their local affairs. I applaud the bravery of the British troops in this raid and I urge additional raids by the NATO forces in Bosnia to accomplish this essential and unfinished part of our collective duty. ●

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN RUSSIA

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I would like to make a very brief statement about an action taken earlier this day when I was unable to comment—the adoption of the Smith amendment as it had to do with religious liberty in Russia.

I know everyone talked about the importance of religious freedom and independent religious liberty, and how important it is for that value to be established in Russia. And I do not want to repeat those arguments. There is just one point I think that needs to be made here.

The psychologists have a term “xenophobia” which they use to describe those who have a fear of strangers, or a fear of anything foreign. As we look at the long and troubled history of Russia, and then the Soviet Union, we see that one of the driving forces in that culture has been xenophobia—terrible fear under the czars of any kind of Western influence somehow creeping into Russia; terrible fear under the commissars, or Communist dictators from Lenin and Stalin all the way down through Khrushchev and Brezhnev of anything that they considered to be foreign. It was one of the major problems of the Soviet Union and one of the major difficulties that they had in becoming an accepted part of the world family of nations.

We all rejoiced when the Berlin wall came down, when in the spirit of glasnost—or openness—Mr. Gorbachev led the Soviet Union into an atmosphere of much less xenophobia.

The thing that distresses me the most is the piece of legislation that passed the Russian Parliament, and that is now sitting on President Yeltsin's desk, is that it is a clear return to the days of xenophobia—fear of anything from outside.

Yes. Religious liberty is important. Yes. I voted for the Smith amendment to establish the importance of religious liberty. But I voted for the Smith amendment even more firmly because I believe the Russian people must be told in as firm a fashion as possible that if they returned to the days of the darkest period of the czars, if they returned to the days of the darkest period of the

Soviet Union with an unfounded and irresponsible fear of anything that comes from beyond their borders, they will be taking a most serious downward turn in the culture and future of their Republic.

So in that, Mr. President, I cast my vote in favor of the Smith amendment hoping to send that message to the people of Russia.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DEWINE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

MFN STATUS WITH CHINA

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, tomorrow we will be voting on Senator HUTCHINSON's amendment with regard to most-favored-nation status with China.

I intend tomorrow to vote for the amendment offered by my friend from Arkansas, Senator HUTCHINSON. I would like to emphasize, however, first and foremost, that this is a sense-of-the-Senate resolution. It is not binding. It does not in any way alter or reverse the President's decision to extend most-favored-nation trading status with China. As we all know, the House of Representatives already has voted against a resolution revoking China's MFN status.

So, Mr. President, this amendment is more a chance to make a statement—frankly, for me, a chance to express my frustration with certain activities taken by the Chinese Government.

Let there be no misunderstanding. I believe that China needs to reassess its actions in a number of areas because I believe Congress—certainly this Senator—is losing patience.

Let me be a bit more specific. I am very concerned first about China's weapons proliferation activities particularly in the Middle East. In the past 2 years, it has been reported in the media that China has supplied Pakistan with key components to develop its own nuclear weapons program as well as ballistic missiles to deliver such weapons. China also has been the source for Iran's growing cruise missile capability, which poses a clear threat to our military personnel and commercial shippers in the Persian Gulf.

Further, I am concerned about Chinese state-owned companies knowingly supplying assault weapons to criminal gangs in California. Representatives of these companies were arrested in a sting operation just last year and are now awaiting trial in California. I am very concerned about repeated human rights violations throughout China as well as religious persecution and religious repression.

I am very concerned about the hideous practices of forced abortions and sterilization in China. I am concerned about the possible reversal of various political liberties such as free speech and assembly in Hong Kong.

These are all very serious issues, and I believe that we need to take action to

try to address each one. My vote tomorrow in favor of this sense-of-the-Senate resolution will be an expression of these concerns. However, I believe there are far more effective ways to demonstrate our commitment to these issues than just the sense of the Senate before us. I suggest if we truly want to address all these issues constructively, we should bring before the Senate legislation that is targeted for its clear solutions.

For example, the Senate recently passed legislation offered by my colleague who just spoke a moment ago, the distinguished Senator from Utah, Mr. BENNETT, which calls on our President to enforce our Nation's non-proliferation laws against China for its efforts to supply Iran with cruise missiles. I was a cosponsor of this legislation, which, by the way, passed the Senate unanimously.

We can do more. We could and we should bring before the Senate the legislation that was introduced by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER, legislation which would impose penalties on countries guilty of supporting or tolerating religious persecution, and I am a proud cosponsor of this bill.

We should bring before the Senate the legislation introduced by the Senator from Michigan, Mr. ABRAHAM, which would impose targeted sanctions against China in cases of religious persecution and against Chinese companies for illegal weapons transfers into the United States.

This bill would also increase United States support for human rights and democracy-building initiatives in China, including Radio Free Asia and the National Endowment for Democracy. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation as well.

If we truly want to take strong, constructive action in regard to China, the options are clearly before us. The sense-of-the-Senate resolution before us is not the best way to address all of the issues of concern we have with China, but it is, I believe, helpful to send a signal to the Government of China that the people of the United States are genuinely concerned about the direction China has taken in a number of areas. Again, it is just a signal. But we should use the opportunity to make this signal strong and very clear.

I believe, as I have stated, that we can do much more, more that is constructive and more that I believe can make a real and positive difference for the people of China. I hope in the weeks and months ahead we will take these actions.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1997

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, now on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of

9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 17. I further ask that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then immediately resume consideration of S. 955, the foreign operations appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, also on behalf of the majority leader, I would like to make the following announcement for Members of the Senate. Tomorrow the Senate will resume consideration of S. 955, the foreign operations appropriations bill. Under the order,

following the debate time on the remaining two amendments to S. 955, the Senate will begin voting on those amendments as well as final passage. Therefore, Senators can expect three consecutive rollcall votes beginning at approximately 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. It is the intention of the majority leader that the Senate begin consideration of the treasury, postal appropriations bill following the disposition of the foreign operations appropriations bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous con-

sent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:21 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 17, 1997, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 16, 1997:

THE JUDICIARY

RICHARD CONWAY CASEY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK VICE CHARLES S. HAIGHT, JR., RETIRED.

RONALD LEE GILMAN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE U.S. CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE H. TED MILBURN, RETIRED.